



Do not run a positive-pressure exhaust, chimney, or vent through a duct or plenum so a leak becomes the air stream. Fitting above the ceiling is not the same as being allowed in the plenum.

Original Masterbuild PE packet from Daily Code Talk on 2024 IMC 601.4. Confirm the adopted edition. Distinct from 601 return-air location and 403.2.1 recirculation limits. This is not a duct-size calculation.

☐ **The intent is contamination prevention. If the system leaks, the plenum or duct becomes the distribution path.**

Exception 1: a positive-pressure exhaust duct may sit in a ceiling return plenum only over spaces already allowed 10 percent recirculation under 403.2.1 item 4, and joints must comply with 603.9.

☐ **Exception 2 — chimneys and vents through a plenum only if: the venting system is listed for positive pressure and sealed.**

On the set: identify plenums before routing exhaust or vents. If you use an exception, name which one on the mechanical cover sheet and show the listing, seal, or enclosure detail.

☐ **“It fits above the ceiling” is the comment.**

A grease exhaust, a clothes-dryer booster, or a Category IV vent dropped through a return plenum without an exception basis is a first-cycle redline.

The fail we see first

Above the ceiling is not “in the plenum, approved.” Coordinate routing early so the path is compliant, not just physically convenient.

What to send: reflected-ceiling plan, which spaces are plenums, and any exhaust or vent that currently runs above those ceilings.

Send the comments. Not the County guideline.

Folio (does it start with 30?), process or UP number, and the comments PDF. Masterbuild will say which row is actually open.

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+1 (786) 398-6940 · Calendly: 30-minute scoping call

Masterbuild provides engineering services under a written scope. Not a duct-size calculation. Confirm adopted 601.4. This is not legal advice.